

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 041135Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3588

INFO RUFHOASPA MEMBASSY BONN 069

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOFC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0641

PARIS FOR AMB HANDYSIDE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO PFOR US UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: STATE 69945

1. DURING FILM SHOW AT MY RESIDENCE EVENING APRIL 3,
SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR DROUJININE CALLED ME ASIDE AND
MENTIONED UPCOMING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEFEAT OF NAZI

GERMANY. HE SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN

AND SOVIET EMBASSIES

HOLD JOINT REPEAT JOINT COMMEMORATION OF EVNT. REPLYING

THAT

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ALTHOUGH I WOULD ANTICIPATE

ATTENDING CEREMONEY HOSTED
BY SOVIET EMBASSY, I COULD NOT OFFER ENCOURAGEMNT ON
JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF EVENT WITHOUT SPECIFIC APPROVAL FROM
WASHINGTON. I STATED
VERY FRANKLY THAT USG WOULD NOT
WISH TO DO ANYTHING WHICH WOULD OFFEND OUR WEST GERMAN
ALLIES TO WHICH DROUJININE REPLIED THAT EVENT IS DESIGNED TO
COMMEMORATE DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY AND HAS NO APPLICABILITY
TO FRG. AT THIS POINT WE WERE INTERRUPTED AND DROUJININE
CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN
ON THIS MATTER.

2. FOLLOWING MORNING I DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH FRG CHARGE
SCHAFER
(GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON MAGNUS IS ON EXTENDED HOME
LEAVE). HE WAS SURPRISED BY DROUJININE'S SUGGESTION THAT
SOVIETS AND AMERICANS HOST JOINT COMMEMORATION. IN FACT,
SCH
FER ADDED, HIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT REPEAT
NOT TO ATTEND ANY SUCH EVENT. I EXPLAINED
TO SCHAFER THAT
DROUJININE WAS GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON QUESTION OF JOINT
SPONSORHSIP ALTHOUGH OUR EMBASSY, IF INVITED, WOULD MOST
PROBABLY ATTEND SOVIET-SPONSORED FUNCTION. SCHAFER
EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CONSULTATION AND
SAID HE WILL
TRY TO DETERMINE IF FRENCH HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR GAUTHIER ATTENDED SAME FILM SHOW

T RESIDENCE PREVIOUS EVENING. ALTHOUGH DROUJININE TALKED
WITH GAUTHIER, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DID NOT INDICATE TO ME
WHETHER OR NOT QUESTION OF SOVIET V-E DAY CELEBRATION
CAME UP.

4. COMMENT: ONLY EXAMPLE OF JOINT ACTIVITY CITED
BY DROUJININE WAS FILM SHOW, ALTHOUGH HE MAY
HAVE SOMETHING
ELSE IN MIND. JUDGING BY INITIAL REACTION OF FRG EMBASSY,

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WEST GERMANS WOULD LOOK WITH GREAT
DISFAVOR ON OUR
JOINT SPONSORSHIP OF SUCH EVENT. AT SAME TIME,
SOVIET EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT TAKES DETENTE SERIOUSLY
AND WILL CERTAINLY RAISE MATTER AGAIN. WOULD APPRECIATE
FURTHER GUIDANCE ASAP, IDEALLY BEFORE DROUJININE CONTACTS
US SECOND TIME.SHINN

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